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Hickman Ice & Coal Co.

J. T. DILLON, Manager



Mortimer looked across at me ear

nestly, but with an expension of doubt

in his eyes. As for myself I hardly

knew what to say or do. Grant had

no corroborative proof of his asser

tions, unless I was returned to Phila-

delphia. I could emphatically deny

that I was the man, insist on my right

to a fair trial. But how could I ac

count in any reasonable way for my

presence at Elmburst, or even success

fully sustain my claim to being a Con-

tinental officer. I could not tell

Colonel Morttmer that I had been tak

en prisoner by his daughter, masque

rading as a lieutenant of dragoons

Apparently he knew nothing of this

escapade, and she would scarcely for

give me for exposure; besides, for all

knew to the contrary, the girl might

have thus been attempting to serve

the colonies, and a word of betrayal

might seriously injure our cause. All

this flashed over me before Mortimes

"Have you any proofs, sir, that you are an officer of Maxwell's brigade?"

tnined."

Jerseys?"

believe him."

colonel listening quietly.

in this house yesterday."

"I have, sir."

oner to whom?"

fore you arrived."

light?"

was be?"

easily on his feet,

breathing heavily.

"Not here," and I glanced down at

"On what service are you in the

"Were you in Philadelphia, wearing

"If I should say no, it would be

merely my word against Captain

Grant-you would doubtless prefer to

Grant whispered in his ear, the

"I am informed that you have al

"Did anyone know of your presence

"I was brought here—a prisoner."

"What!" in decided surprise. "Pris

"I was captured by three men

dressed as Queen's Rangers, on a road

some miles to the west. They made

no explanation, although I have some

reason to believe I was mistaken for

another. I was held in a strong room

the house," broke in Grant hoarsely.

"You were not there when I searched

"No," and I turned and amiled at

"Phen you saw your captors by day-

"Two of them, yes-a man called

Peter, and an Irish fellow, with a chin

"What!" and Mortimer started for

"They were apparently under the

orders of 'a young lieutenant-the

same who had command of Delavan's

advance guard. I was unable to dis-

"Delavan's advance guard!" and the

colonel turned toward Grant. "What

do you know about this, sir? Who

The captain hesitated, shifting un-

"I-I do not know, sir," he explained

finally, driven to answer. "I merely

had a glimpse of the boy when I first

joined the column. I-I thought I req

"Who did you suppose him to be?"
"Your son, Eric, sir."

CHAPTER XIX.

Again the Cellar Room.

The father sank back in his chair

"Eric here, making use of this

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We have had seventy years

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Mate by the 2, C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

in close touch with him.

ognized him, but was not sure."

tinguish the lad's face."

ward. "Peter and Mike in uniform!

This is beyond belief. Were they

him. "I had been brought upstairs be-

in the basement overnight."

ready acknowledged being concealed

"I must decline to answer."

British uniform three days ago?"

him offhand if it was me."

CHAPTER I-Major Lawrence, son of Judge Lawrence of Virginia, whose wife was a Lee, is sent on a perilous mission by Gen. Washington, just after the win-ter at Valley Forge.

CHAPTER II-Disguised in a Britist uniform arrives within the enemy's lines CHAPTER III—The Major attends a great fete and saves the "Lady of the sliended Rose" from mob. He later meets the girl at a brilliant ball.

CHAPTER IV-Trouble is started over a waits, and Lawrence is urged by his partner, Mistress Mortimer, (the Lady of the Blended Rose), to make his escape. CHAPTER V.-Lawrence is detected as a spy by Captain Grant of the British army, who agrees to a duel.

CHAPTER VI-The duel is stopped by Grant's friends and the spy makes a dash for liberty, swimming a river following a narrow escape.

CHAPTER VII-The Major arrives at the shop of a blacksmith, who is friendly, and knows the Lady of the Blended Ross.

CHAPTER IX-Lawrence joins the min-ute men who capture Grant and his

my rough clothing, "yet with a little delay that could be easily ascer-

CHAPTER XI-Lawrence's captors lock him in a strong cell, where he meets Peter the jaller. CHAPTER XII-Peter advises Law-rence not to attempt escape as "some one" will send for him.

CHAPTER XIII-Grant's appearance adds mystery to the combination of cir-

CHAPTER XIV-Lawrence again meets the Lady of the Blended Rose, who in-forms him that he is in her house and that she was in command of the party that attacked and captured him.

CHAPTER XV-The captive is thrust into a dark underground chamber when Captain Grant begins a search of the premises.

CHAPTER XVI—After digging his wr-out, Lawrence finds the place deserted. Evidences of a battle and a dead mag across the threshold.

CHAPTER XVII-Col. Mortimer, father of the Lady of the Blended Rose, finds his home in ruins.

CHAPTER XVIII-Capt. Grant insists that Lawrence be strung up at once.

"Major in the Maryland Line, Manwell's Brigade."

"Dressed hurriedly, probably, and forgot your uniform."

"I have lately been serving with the Jersey militia, sir, as Captain Grant can testify," I answered civilly.

"And Captain Grant is only too anxious," broke in that officer impatiently. "If you will listen to me colonel, I'll tell you what I know is two minutes or less. It will settle this fellow's status."

Mortimer glanced from my face to that of the speaker, evidently attracted by the vindictiveness of the voice "All right, Grant, go on," he said

shortly, "only I shall pass judgment as a soldier, and not because of any personal quarrel. What is it you

"That this man came into Philadel phia three days ago dressed as an officer of British infantry. He claimed to be Lieutenant Fortesque of the Forty-second Foot, with despatches from New York. Howe vouched for him, and furnished him with a pass and orderly. He put in the whole day studying the positions of our troops, and in the evening was a guest at the Mischianza-Andre gave him a card. I heard-and danced there with your daughter. I doubted the man from our first meeting, and later picked up certain rumors which convinced me he was a spy. Some words passed between us on the dancing floor, and as a consequence I asked the man to meet me below. Some one either told him he was suspected, or else he had the heart of a coward, for he failed

to appear." "Did you intend to fight him?" "No, we planned an arrest. I re-

ported to MacHugh what I had heard, and he had Carter close at hand with a squad of the guard."

'A very pretty trick on mere suspicion," commented the colonel in some disgust. "But go on with your story." Grant sucked in his breath quickly, evidently surprised at the remark.

'Claire was waiting for me upstairs in the dining room, but after Carter had scattered his men to the outposts. I took a turn about the grounds in hope of thus running across the fellow. Luck favored me, but, damn him, he jumped into me like a fighting cock struck me in the face, and taunted me into meeting him there and then."

"Good boy! the right stuff, eh Sel

"I supposed it all a bluff," went or Grant, paying no heed to the inter ruption, although his cheeks flushed "but we went at it, behind the pavilion, and I had pricked him twice, when the guard came up and separat ed us. At that the fellow took to his heels, and by Gad! got away-swam the Delaware, while we were beating the west shore. The next I saw of him he was in command of those ragamuf fins who attacked us out yonder. Now he shows up here looting this house on the trail of 'Red' Fagin. I'd hang

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house, and my servants," he muttered "I can scarcely believe it true. Waswas he here yesterday morning when you came?"

Helm & Ellison, Hickman, Ky.

"I found no trace of his presence,

There was a moment of stlenoa a dress. I turned in surprise, and saw Claire standing quietly in the door

'Pardon me, gentlemen," she said softly, "but perhaps I can explain much of this mystery, and establish the identity of Major Lawrence."

Seldon sprang forward and offered her a chair, but she merely thanked



"Pardon Me, Gentlemen," She Sald Softly, "but Perhaps I Can Explain Much of This Mystery."

ing, her eyes upon her father. Not once had she even glanced toward either Grant or me, but I noticed the deep flush of color on cheek evidencing her excitement. What was she days? How came she to be here at lights, outbuildings, etc., with big Would she confess the truth all? openly before us all, or would she feel justified in soncealment? I could not, did not, doubt the honesty of the girl's intent, and yet was it possible for her to compel these men to accept her version of all which had occurred? Would she venture a falsehood to protect me, or to save herself "

"I-I have already explained much," I hastened to say, thinking she might

wish to know

"I overheard what has already been said," she returned quickly, but without looking toward me, "and appreciate the care with which my name has thus far been guarded. Now I am ready to make my own explanation."

"But, first, Claire," said her father soberly, "how does it happen you are We supposed you in the hands of 'Red' Fagin, and a squadron of my men are out now tracking the fel-

"I was not in the house when they came, father; Peter and I were back of the stables, fortunately mounted. We were obliged to ride bard, as we were chased several miles, and returned as soon as it appeared safe."

"And Eric! "He departed before Captain Grant arrived," she replied unhesitatingly,

and must be already safe within his "It was Eric, then?"

"Who else could it be? Surely Captain Grant told you as much. The colonel's eyes wandered about

the little group, and his doubt and bewilderment were clearly evident. "Do you know Eric's purpose in coming here? in presuming to act as

an officer in Delavan's company?" "He did not inform me, sir." "You know this man?"

She turned, and looked at me for the first time, a silent plea in her blue

"I do-he is Major Lawrence of General Washington's army," her voice low, but distinct. "I have known him since the Continental troops were first quartered in Philadelphia."

I started slightly, yet as instantly recovered my outward composure, realizing that this strange girl again purposed protecting me from exposure, even at the expense of a falsehood.

(Continued on another page.)

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